



Saint Joseph's College 2022 Democratic Engagement Action Plan

Developed by: Matt Gawel

Executive Summary:

This nonpartisan democratic engagement action plan was developed by Saint Joseph's College in Maine for the 2022 election. The purpose of this action plan is to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter registration, education, and turnout in the 2022 midterm election. The goals for Saint Joseph's College for the 2022 election are:

- Create voter awareness through tabling, programming, displays and social media
- Engage in non-partisan voter education by disseminating a candidate awareness guide for the state of Maine.
- Create opportunities for voting by providing transportation to the local polling station on election day, working with the Town Clerk to assist in voting as Standish, ME residents
- Create a baseline of voter turnout for future election data goals
- Create a baseline Civic Engagement with the Motivate Voter Engagement Platform

Leadership:

Our leadership team includes the following:

Matt Gawel - Director of Student Engagement & Leadership Development

Liz Wiesen - VP/Dean of Campus Life

Andrew Martin - Student Civic Engagement Assistant

Elijah Ward - Student Volunteer

Mary Chapman - Standish, Maine Town Clerk

Our campus works with these following nonprofit partners: Campus Compact, League of Women Voters, Motivate

Commitment:

The values of the College, rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and in the heritage of the Sisters of Mercy, are the foundation for the College's educational mission. Taken to heart, these values exist at our very core; they are made visible in our daily interactions. Through a process of discernment based on dialogue and reflection, we designate the following as the Core Values for our College.

2 of those 7 core values are Community and Justice, which both directly correlate with Saint Joseph's commitment to civic engagement.

Community

*Informed by the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, we demonstrate our spirit of connectedness with one another through our expressions of hospitality, courtesy, inclusive relationships, shared values, and collaboration. **We extend this value of community by reaching out to neighbors and to members of the broader civic and ecclesial communities.***

Justice

*Recognizing the dignity of all persons, we seek to address instances of injustice both within and outside our College community **from a stance of informed advocacy.** We hold ourselves accountable to each other and endeavor to practice responsible stewardship of the resources available to us.*

Saint Joseph's College has been a signatory to the Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation since 2020.

Landscape:

Saint Joseph's College is a private 4-year institution and joined the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge in 2016.

Our campus demographic and voting data:

Saint Joseph's College has 1,518 students.
758 students are on-campus undergraduates.
535 are on-campus resident students.
617 of the students are Maine residents.

Goals:

Our campus democratic engagement goals are:

- Create voter awareness through tabling, programming, displays and social media
- Engage in non-partisan voter education by disseminating a candidate awareness guide for the state of Maine.
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Strategy:

Saint Joseph's College will implement these strategies to increase nonpartisan democratic engagement and student voter participation.

- Weekly in-person voter engagement/education events
- Voter Registration drives
- Social Media and Email marketing strategy promoting events and awareness
- Flying a VOTE flag on the campus center flag pole to demonstrate commitment
- Partnership with Motivate engagement platform

Evaluation:

We will evaluate our action plan in the following ways:

Saint Joseph's College has authorized NSLVE. We plan to use surveys, a debrief with each of the key stakeholders/constituencies and well as an evaluation of all data collected to create a long term voter engagement strategy for the 2024 election and beyond.

Reporting:

Our campus action plan will be posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website <https://allinchallenge.org/campuses/saint-josephs-college/>.

Our institution has given ALL IN permission to publish our NSLVE reports which are posted on our campus page on ALL IN's website.

Our campus NSLVE reports will be shared with the campus community.